Setting up camera Canon XL1 and getting ready to shoot.

Tripod

- Get the tripod into position and place the camera securely so that you hear it 'clicking' into position.
  Lock the tilt lock. Rock the camera a little to test if it is attached properly.
  Never leave the camera unattended.

Powering up

- When using batteries (DC) make sure that there is one in the camera and one spare in the camera box.
- If you are using mains power (AC) plug the transformer (which converts from 240 volts to 12 volts) into the mains power and the battery adaptor into the battery slot.
- Turn the camera on. (The selector wheel on left hand side) Turn it 'M' for Manual.
  The camera will turn off automatically (go onto 'Standby') after a few minutes.
  To turn back on push the '**Standby'** button.
- Check that the gain is set to 0db (if shooting in normal lighting conditions).
- Connect the monitor if using one.

Lighting

- Set the lighting. This can be done before the camera is set up but it is useful to see the lighting through the viewfinder or external monitor.

White balance

- Turn the White Balance button to 3 o'clock. Place your white card near your subjects face. (Different positions within your lighting set-up can have different colour temperatures.) Then hit the White Balance button.
- The other white balance settings should not be used unless you are in a real rush – which you shouldn't be. You can select 'A' for 'Automatic' or 'Light bulb' when you are inside with lights or, 'Sun' when you are outside. Because this camera has a colour view finder you can be reasonably confident that in terms of colour – 'What you see is what you get.'

Insert tape

- Make sure you close inside door first.

Exposure

- Use the viewfinder on the camera to check the exposure not the external monitor.
- Utilise the zebra-pattern function (this is always on) – adjust your iris to get a small amount of zebra pattern on the highlights of the face.
- Make sure you have decided on an exposure style and stick to it.

Focus

- Once the frame is set - zoom in to the subject's eye and focus. With this camera it is imperative that you use Manual Focus.
- On the barrel of the lense you will see AF (Auto focus) – M (Manual). When in the 'Manual' mode you can push the 'Push AF' to auto focus. Only trust this if you can see that it is in focus.

Audio

- Connect your external microphone into the XLR (Canon) plug into the left channel of the back of the camera.
- When you plug in the on-board mic i.e. the one on the top – this will override the external mic that you plug in the back – and vice versa.
- Get the microphone into shot and get the camera operator to give you edge of frame.
- Open audio door – these are the settings:
    - only use AUDIO 1 / MIC settings.
    - REC LEVEL. – set to M for Manual
    - Input Level set to:
        - Audio 1 for external Mic
        - Mic for on board Mic
    - Adjust Level to peaking @ -12db in the red hooded audio viewfinder on top of camera

ND Filter

- Only turn on when you are closed right down i.e., f22 and it is still too bright

Stabiliser (Shot)

- Do not turn on – it can cause more instability than it solves.

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